

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 NEA-10 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08

TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /217 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AG

SUBJ: JOBERT VISIT TO ALGIERS

1. HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY REVIEW JOBERT'S VISIT TO ALGIERS, MARCH 22-3, WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR BUT IMPRESSION FROM SPEECHES, PRESS CONFERENCE AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE IS THAT ALL WENT WELL, WITHIN MODEST LIMITS EXPECTED.

2. IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH ALGERIAN JOURNALIST BEFORE LEAVING PARIS, JOBERT HAD REFERRED TO DIFFERING TREATMENT GIVEN BY ARAB STATES TO VARIOUS EUROPEAN STATES AND NOTED IT WOULD NOT HELP CAUSE OF EUROPEAN UNITY. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FRENCH EMBASSY THAT JOBERT RETURNED TO QUESTION OF CONTINUED EMBARGO AGAINST THE NETHERLANDS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP ALGERIAN LEADERS INCLUDING PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.

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3. AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 23 JOBERT WAS CAUTIOUS IN REPLY TO QUESTION RE POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF VISITS AT CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL BUT HE PRONOUNCED SUCH AN EXCHANGE POSSIBLE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING AND MINISTER OF LABOR GEORGES GORSE WOULD SOON VISIT ALGIERS AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE ALGERIAN MINISTERS WOULD VISIT FRANCE.

4. BOTH IN PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE JOBERT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE BUT IN PRESS CONFERENCE HE SUGGESTED CONFERENCE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATER 1974 OR EARLY 1975. HE ADDED (PROBABLY REFERRING TO CRITICISMS IN U.S. PRESS) THAT "IF SOME THINK THAT THIS DEMARCHE IMPAIRS PEACE, I TELL THEM THEY DECEIVE THEMSELVES VERY MUCH."

5. IN ALL, JOBERT'S VISIT PRODUCED MOST MODERATE PUBLIC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN ALGERIANS AND A FOREIGN LEADER IN MEMORY.
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